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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
January 8th, 1857.

To the Governor of Maryland:

In obedience to the requirements of the Act of Assembly, of 1852, Chapter 56, Section 1, the Comptroller of the Treasury Department respectfully submits the following Report:

THE OPERATIONS OF THE TREASURY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR.

STATEMENT No. 1, appended to this Report, upon examination, will show the aggregate receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year, ended the 30th of September, 1856, to have been $1,230,522.34, which added to $592,922.03, (the balance in the Treasury on the 30th of September, 1855) makes the total amount in the Treasury, during the fiscal year, $1,823,444.37.

A comparison of these receipts with those of the preceding fiscal year, will show a difference in favor of the aggregate receipts for the fiscal year ending 30th September, 1856, of $29,759.76.

It will also appear that the receipts from revenue which accrued during the year just closed, exceed those of the preceding fiscal year by the sum of $54,542.40, notwithstanding he repeal of the Stamp Tax at the last session of the General Assembly, and the reduction of the Direct Tax from fifteen cents to ten cents on $100.

STATEMENT No. 2, will exhibit the disbursements from the Treasury in the fiscal year, ended the 30th of September, 1856, which were $1,230,508.05, and will, also, show the balance in the Treasury, as of the 30th of September, 1856, to have been $592,936.32, subject to the payment of charges therein stated, leaving a nett balance applicable to future demands of $310,410.78.

THE ESTIMATES.

The probable receipts in the current fiscal year, ending the 30th of September, 1857, will be found estimated in STATEMENT No. 3; and STATEMENT No. 4, shows an estimate of the probable demand upon the Treasury for the same period.

"THE FUNDS."

STATEMENT No. 5, contains a report of the Free Schools Fund, and the Sinking Fund, constituting "The Funds."

By a reference to this Statement, it will appear that the Free Schools Fund had to its credit, in the Treasury, on the 30th of September, 1855, the sum of $30,055.73, and there was received, during the fiscal year just closed, on account of this Fund, the sum of $69,888.44; and there was expended, for the same period, the sum of $68,020.24. It will also appear that, on the 30th of September, 1856, the Free Schools Fund had remaining to its credit in the Treasury $31,923.93.

STATEMENT A, comprises that portion of the School Fund which consists of Bank Stock and Cash, belonging to the Counties.

STATEMENT No. 5, also furnishes an account of the receipts and disbursements on account of the "Sinking Fund" in the fiscal year ended the 30th of September, 1856.

The receipts were $237,102.65, the whole of which sum was invested for the use of that Fund; so that there was no balance remaining in the Treasury, to its credit, at the close of the year.

The Sinking Fund has been increased from the sum of $3,426,749.95, (which was its amount on the 30th of September, 1855,) to the sum of $3,676,065.35, which was its amount on the 30th of September, 1856.

The character of the Stocks purchased for the Sinking Fund, during the fiscal year, appear in STATEMENT B, of the *Appendix*.

By a comparison of this Statement with STATEMENT No. 5, it will be seen that while the addition to the Sinking Fund has been $249,315.40, yet $237,102.65 only was expended to effect the increase, the State being thus saved in the purchase of Stock $12,212.75.

The exclusive control of the Sinking Fund is with the Treasurer, and its present condition clearly evinces the faithfulness and ability of the distinguished gentleman, to whom the people have entrusted its management.

DIRECT TAXES.

STATEMENT No. 6, will show that the receipts from the Direct Tax for the fiscal year are $330,594.42, of which sum $115,101.-

68 were paid on account of Tax accrued in 1856, and $215,492.-74 were on account of previous years.

By the Act of Assembly, Chapter 352, of 1856, the Direct Tax was reduced from fifteen cents on $100 to ten cents on 100.

A comparison of the receipts, on account of Direct Tax, contained in STATEMENT No. 6, with those of the preceeding fiscal year, will show that the entire receipts on this account for 1855, which were $365,837.88 exceeded those of the year just closed by the sum of $35,243.46; and it will also appear that the revenue from this source, received on account of the Tax for 1856, was $36,404.51 less than the receipts in 1855, for Tax due on account of that year. Making an allowance for the reduction of the Direct Tax. the difference *pro rata* in favor of the receipts in 1856, for 1856, appears to be $20,-764.22 over the preceding year. But the diminished difficulty of collecting a reduced levy, and the increase of assessable property in the State must also be considered in this connection, and will explain, to a considerable extent, this differerence.

The collectors for 1856, have generally made their payments with commendable promptness. Those of Calvert County are deserving of particular mention, having settled their accounts, for 1856, in full, with this Department.

Those collectors of Baltimore County who were largely in arrears on the 30th of September, 1855, (and this, it is but just to say, was attributable, to some extent, at least, to the confusion of the collecting laws for that County,) have exhibited a laudable determination, by the heavy payments they have made into the Treasury within the last fiscal year, to acquit themselves of their liabilities.

The State's Attorney of Baltimore county is entitled to credit for the zeal and energy manifested by him for the interest of the State.

Several Mutual Insurance Companies were exempted from all taxation, by Chapter 339, of the Acts of Assembly of 1856.

The law in relation to defaulting officers, passed at the late session of the Legislature, at the instance of the Treasurer, is a most excellent one, and the Comptroller will endeavor, so far as it may be in his power, to enforce it to the fullest extent.

THE STAMP TAX.

The law imposing Stamp Duties was repealed at the last

session of the Legislature, the repeal taking effect on the 10th of March.

No provision was made for the dedemption of Stamps remaining in the hands of holders at the time the law went into operation. In several instances, this Department was requested to return the amount of these Duties, but, in the absence of any specific appropriation, under the 20th section of the 3rd Article of the Constitution, the Comptroller was constrained to refuse.

The Legislature, at its next session, will doubtless afford the necessary relief.

Statement No. 6, will exhibit the amount of money received for Stamp Duties, from the 30th of September, 1855, to the repeal of the law, which appears to have been $40,-453.02, of which sum $21,864.12 was paid by the Commissioner of Stamps, and $18,588.90 by the Clerks of the several Courts.

REVENUE FROM CLERKS OF COURTS, &c.

Statement No. 7, also shows the receipts into the Treasury from the sales of Licenses, Taxes on Plaintiffs, on Commissions of Trustees and Receivers, Excess of Officers' Fees, &c.

The entire amount received from these sources during the fiscal year was $295,629.78, an increase of $32,276.08, over the aggregate receipts, on these accounts, in the preceding fiscal year.

It will be observed that this increase is derived principally from Licenses issued to Ordinary Keepers and Traders, under the "New License Act." This law passed by the Legislature at their recent session, contains an admirable provision by which the oath of the applicant is made the guide of the Clerk in granting the License.

In some respects, however, the Act is defective: there is no penalty attached to its violation, unless the penalties of former laws apply, and they will be found inadequate; some portions of it are also inconsistent with others, and this has occasioned much difficulty in its execution.

The attention of the next Legislature will be called to this subject, and the recommendation of my predecessor renewed, for the passage of a general law embracing the whole License system. Such a law, extending to many new branches of

business, would justify a reduction in the present rates, without diminishing the revenue.

The discharge of their duties, in connection with this Department, by the various Clerks of Courts. has been highly creditable, with but few exceptions.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Caroline County, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, are in default. The Clerk last mentioned has made a considerable payment into the Treasury since the close of the fiscal year.

The Clerk for Caroline County, is indebted for revenue accrued in his hands, as of the 1st of December, 1854, 1st of June, 1855, 1st of December, 1855, and the 1st of June, 1856, amounting to $4,567.53. An account of his indebtedness has been sent to the State's Attorney, for that County, for immediate suit, with instructions to prosecute "with diligence and effect." No information has been received, after repeated inquiries, to indicate that these instructions have been complied with.

In cases of this kind, the State would be greatly benefitted by the passage of a law empowering the Comptroller, or the Governor, upon the representation and at the request of the Comptroller, to employ counsel to prosecute the claims of the State.

REVENUE FROM REGISTERS OF WILLS.

During the fiscal year, the Registers of Wills have paid into the Treasury $67,278.04, being an increase of $6,771.52, as compared with the year preceding.

An inspection of STATEMENT No. 8, shows that the sum of $40,123.23, was received from Tax on Commissions of Executors and Administrators, and $27,154.81, on Collateral Inheritances.

It gives the Comptroller pleasure to testify to the almost universal efficiency of this class of public officers.

The Comptroller is obliged to report the Register of Wills for Caroline County in default, for balance of revenue in his hands to the 1st of June, 1855, ($43.03,) and to the 1st of December, 1855, ($196.50.) It is alleged that a portion of the sum due, as stated above, has been paid to the State's Attorney for that County, under the impression that his receipt was a sufficient release.

The erroneous opinion frequently entertained by revenue officers, that the receipt of a State's Attorney, upon a claim in

his hands for suit, is binding upon the State, and releases the debt, has been productive of much trouble and difficulty, and this Department has, therefore, endeavored, as far as possible, to correct this opinion.

AUCTION DUTIES.

The returns made by the several Auctioneers in the City of Baltimore, during the fiscal year, amounted in the aggregate to $16,886.73, as appears in STATEMENT No. 11.

In accordance with Chapter 266 of the Acts of 1853, the proceeds of these Auction Duties are appropriated to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, for the purpose of deepening the channel in the Chesapeake Bay and Patapsco River, below Fort McHenry.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAIL ROAD COMPANY.

The amount of the State's proportion of the receipts on the Washington Branch of this Road, in the fiscal year, was $73,059.08, an increase as compared with the receipts in the fiscal year ending the 30th of September 1855, of $5,086.69.

During the same period, the State received from this Company on Road Stock for dividends $67,315, being an increase over the preceding year of $31,565. Of the sum received $20,565, was for the "Main Stem," and $46,750, for the "Washington Branch." These figures indicate the rapidly increasing prosperity of this magnificent Road.

SUSQUEHANNA AND TIDE-WATER CANAL COMPANIES.

By STATEMENT No. 10, it appears that these Companies paid, during the fiscal year, $70,812.20; of which sum $67,100 was on account of current interest, and $3,712.20, on account of interest on the unfunded debt due by the said Companies.

NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

Within the fiscal year the State has received into the Treasury the sum of $90,000, paid by this Company in fulfillment of its obligations under chapter 260 of 1854.

TOBACCO INSPECTIONS.

By an examination of STATEMENT No. 11, the gross receipts from State Tobacco Inspections in Baltimore, will be found to have been, in the year ended on the 30th of September last, $56,568.91, (being $6,450.89 *less* than those of the preced-

ing year,) and the expenses $47,706.11, (being $2,509.79, *more* than those of the year preceding,) leaving a nett balance of $8,862.80.

STATEMENT No. 12, shows the returns of the several Tobacco Inspectors.

The Insurance upon the Tobacco Warehouses has been regularly renewed.

EXCESS OF FEES UNDER THE FIRST SECTION OF THE 10TH ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ACT OF 1853, CHAPTER 444.

The amount of receipts on this account, for the fiscal year ended 30th September 1856, STATEMENT No. 7, shows to have been $6,019.61, being a decrease of $2,373.19, compared with the receipts in 1855.

Of the sum received, the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Frederick County paid $563.40; and the Register of Wills of the same County paid $14.10.

There was also received, on this account, from the late State's Attorney for Baltimore City, $1,392.94; from the late Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, $2,609.09; and from the Clerk of the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, $1,200.

By referring to STATEMENT No. 7, it will be seen that four of the Inspectors of Flour paid, on this account, $60.02 each. The sum of $400, being the amount of tax paid for their commissions, was included in the list of their office expenses, and withheld from the State.

The Comptroller, believing this to be contrary to the provision of the Constitution, under which they reported to this Department, received the $60.02, as so much on account, returned their report for correction, and demanded payment from each of the sum of $400, the balance held to be due. This demand has been refused, and suits will be ordered upon their official bonds.

The remaining Inspector having failed to pay anything, suit will be instituted upon his bond for the whole amount claimed to be due from him.

To prevent future difficulties arising under the 10th Article of the Constitution, a general law should be enacted similar to that passed in 1853, in relation to the emoluments of Clerks of Courts and Registers of Wills. The passage of such a law would unquestionably increase the receipts from this branch of revenue.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The receipts from the Live Stock Scales in Baltimore for the fiscal year, amounted to $7,414.16, being less than those of the preceding year by $3,121.51. This apparent falling off in the receipts from this source is accounted for by the extensive repairs it has been found absolutely necessary to make at these Scales.

The establishment of additional "Live Stock Scales," at some point nearer the Susquehanna Depot, it is believed would be a public convenience, and by superseding the private Scales in that quarter, add to the revenue.

There was received into the Treasury, from the State Wharves, during the fiscal year, the sum of $4,002.47, which is a slight increase, compared with the year preceding.

The Assessed Value of Real and Personal Property in the State for the year 1856, will be found in STATEMENT K. of the Appendix.

By a comparison with the Assessment for the year 1855, the increase in the Assessed Value of Property in the State appears to be $7,388.915.

An account of "Funded Debts contracted by the State, as of the 30th of September 1856," will be found in STATEMENT M.

STATEMENT L, is "Of the State's Capital and Credits, as of the 30th of September 1856."

In concluding this Report, the Comptroller may be allowed to express the gratification he feels, as an officer and a citizen, in contemplating the healthy and flourishing condition of the State Finances.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. HENRY PURNELL.

COMPTROLLER.